



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Cyclone Hockey Names Justin Wilkinson Player of the Week

*Defensive play helps sweep Central Oklahoma*

**Feb. 13, 2012 – Ames, Iowa** – Cyclone Hockey is pleased to announce defenseman **Justin Wilkinson (Prince Albert, Saskatchewan – Kindersley Klippers/SJHL)** as its player of the week.

As is oftentimes the case for Wilkinson, a defensive defenseman for the Cyclones, his contributions this past weekend in Iowa State's sweep of the ACHA Men's Division 1 14<sup>th</sup>-ranked Central Oklahoma did not show up on the stats sheet, but they were most certainly present. Wilkinson's defensive acumen and physical presence in his own zone helped prevent his line from getting scored on in the Cyclones' 4-0 shutout victory over the Bronchos Friday night or Iowa State's 5-2 win Saturday night, and his reliable play on the breakout also helped "The Energy Line" put up some points. His keen reading of when to circle away from forecheckers and his adroit ability to do so and then make a crisp breakout pass or skate the puck out of the zone consistently ensured his line broke the puck out of the Cyclones' defensive zone and advanced it through the neutral zone and into the offensive zone.

After the Cyclones allowed only two goals to a talented Central Oklahoma team, the time was right to recognize one of Cyclone Hockey's top defensive players.

"There's a time where the player of the week is more than just goals and assists, and the coaching staff thought this weekend Justin led by example, playing great defensive hockey," said Cyclone Hockey General Manager and Head Coach Dr. Alan Murdoch of Wilkinson.

The Cyclones have allowed only 2.36 goals-against per game this season, helping propel the team to a 24-8-1-4 record after 39 games, and Wilkinson has been a major part of the team attaining that level of defensive proficiency.

"He's the first guy that we call upon in penalty killing situations back on defense, and that's been part of the success of our season, keeping our goals against down on penalty killing situations," added Murdoch about Wilkinson. "Of course, as we get into playoff hockey time, that'll become even more important."

The Cyclones' two wins against Central Oklahoma, in which Wilkinson was a key cog, should prove vital in Iowa State maintaining its ranking of seventh in the ACHA Men's Division 1 National Rankings to be released later this week, which will determine which teams are invited to the 2012 ACHA Men's Division 1 National Tournament and, in part, help determine the seeding for the tournament.

Wilkinson and the Cyclones next play Friday, February 17, at the CSCHL Tournament against archrival Illinois at 1:00 p.m., the first game of the tournament. The semifinals will be played Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The single-elimination tournament will conclude with a championship game at noon Sunday, February 19. All games that the Cyclones play at the CSCHL Tournament will be broadcast online live on America One. For more information, go to [www.cyclonehockey.com](http://www.cyclonehockey.com).

Iowa State will return home for its final home series of the season Friday, February 24, and Saturday, February 25, against the up-and-coming Waldorf College. The start time for both games against the budding intrastate rival is 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the final Cyclone Hockey home games of the season figure to go fast, so reserve yours now by calling the Cyclone Hockey office at 294.6164. Group-sales discounts and rewards apply for groups of as few as 15 people. Call the Cyclone Hockey office for more details.

The Iowa State Cyclones play in the Central States Collegiate Hockey League (CSCHL) and are a member of the American College Hockey Association's Men's Division 1.